



Beaver Creek Wilderness

DANIEL BOONE NATIONAL FOREST • KENTUCKY



Somerset District Office

135 Realty Lane
Somerset, KY 42501
(606) 679-2010



Location

Located 20 miles south of Somerset, Ky. on KY 27 near Greenwood, Ky. Turn right on Forest Road 50 towards Hammonds Camp, then go 5 miles to Forest Road 51 to the Three Forks of the Beaver trailhead.



Parking

At Three Forks of the Beaver trailhead and at Bowman Ridge trailhead at the end of Forest Road 51.



Open Dates

Trails are open year round. Be aware of changing weather conditions.



Camping

Primitive camping is permitted as long as you remain 300 feet away from any road or stream, and out of site of any trail.



Water

Pack your water in. Stream sources of water are unsafe, as they may contain microorganisms that could cause illness.



Trash

Pack out all your trash.



Restrictions

Trails closed to motorized vehicles.



Welcome To Beaver Creek Wilderness

The 4,791 acres of the Beaver Creek Wilderness are nestled beneath spectacular sandstone cliffs. This area was acquired by the National Forest in 1937, and it achieved wilderness designation in 1979 under the 1964 Wilderness Act and 1975 Eastern Wilderness Act.

Signs of past use by man are still visible. Native Americans sought shelter in caves and rock houses scattered throughout this wilderness. Such prehistoric use dates back to 9,000 B.P. More recently, traces of the old Bauer Coal Mining settlement of the early 1900's are still present. Remains of stone fencing, exotic shrubs and old grave sites are still visible and give an idea of past lifestyles. Old logging, coal hauling and country roads are still present.

In the absence of these human activities, natural vegetation is making these marks less visible. Over time, nature is slowly erasing signs man has left behind. Today, people venture into this wilderness for a wild natural setting, leaving only footprints behind.



Wilderness - An Enduring Resource

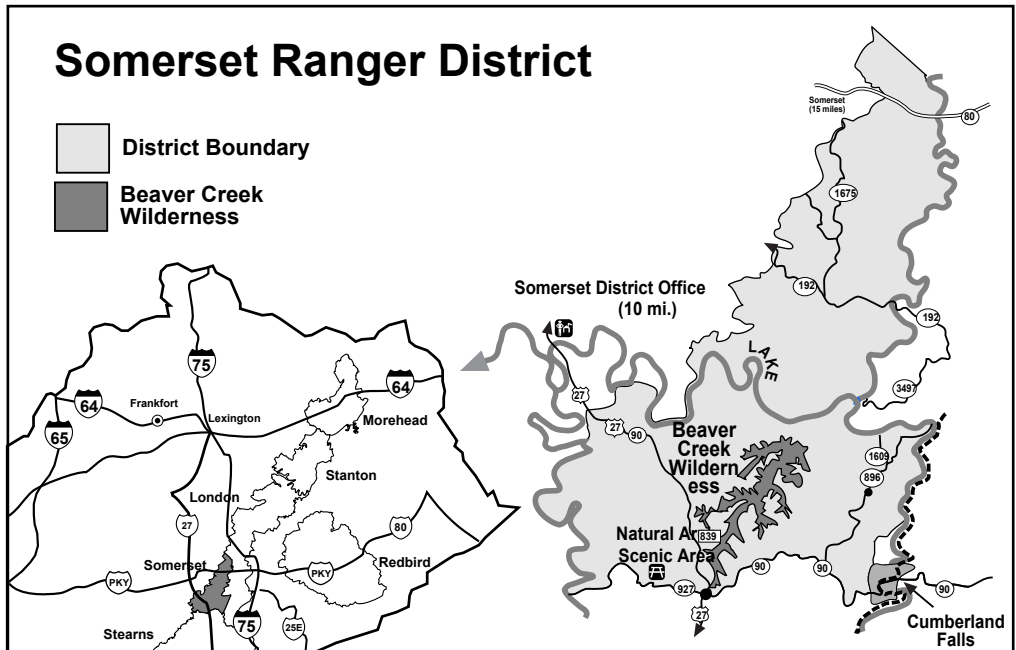
Wilderness visitors are free to explore, discover, and enjoy the solitude and scenic beauty found in this wilderness. While visiting you should expect no trail signs or markers to guide you. In keeping with the wilderness concept, the trails are primitive and strenuous travel can be expected. Large portions of this area have few or no trails.

The challenges present by the wilderness are not for everyone. If you seek isolation, independence, closeness to nature, and a chance to use your outdoor skills, you will enjoy Beaver Creek Wilderness.

Topographical maps are recommended if you plan on exploring. Maps are available at the Somerset District Office (address at above left).

Somerset Ranger District

-  District Boundary
-  Beaver Creek Wilderness



United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service
Southern Region • Daniel Boone National Forest
Supervisor's Office, 1700 Bypass Rd., Winchester, KY 40391 • 859-745-3100





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When you visit:

- Plan your trip in advance. Know what to expect from a wilderness experience.
- Tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return.
- Be in good physical condition and set a comfortable pace.
- Be weatherwise. Know current and predicted weather situations, and wear appropriate clothing.
- Learn basic first aid so you can identify and treat injuries and illnesses.
- Be proficient at using a compass and topographical map.
- Carry drinking water. Do not drink untreated water from streams.
- Make camp before dark, and travel only in daylight.
- Practice Leave-No-Trace camping techniques so you can leave the wilderness as you found it for others to enjoy.

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Beaver Creek Wilderness Trails

Three Forks Loop #512

Beginning at the trailhead parking lot, the trail runs southeast along the top of the cliffline approximately one mile, where it intersects with Trail #512A near the scenic overlook. Take time to enjoy the panoramic view of the three forks that join to form Beaver Creek. To your left will be Freeman Fork, followed by Middle Fork and Little Hurricane Fork. Follow the old roadway northwest back to the beginning. This trail has been designated a Watchable Wildlife area with interpretive signs along the trail to explain features. One portion of this trail has been graveled to facilitate disabled access.

Begins: Three Forks of Beaver Parking Lot Length: 2.03 miles
Ends: Three Forks of Beaver Parking Lot USGS Quad: Hail

Three Forks of the Beaver #512A

This trail begins at the intersection of trail #512 near the scenic overlook. The trail meanders along an old roadway in a southeasterly direction and follows Beaver Creek to the Three Forks of the Beaver. This area lets you truly experience this wilderness firsthand. This rugged area will require good wood skills and a good sense of direction in the event you should wander off any of the trails in the Beaver Creek Wilderness.

Begins: Intersection of #512 near overlook Length: .57 miles
Ends: Three Forks of the Beaver USGS Quad: Hail

Bowman Ridge Trail #514

Beginning at the trailhead parking lot, the trail meanders along the old roadway in a southerly direction into the wilderness. Continue along the old road to its terminus at the trailhead parking lot on Swain Ridge.

Begins: Bowman Ridge trailhead road #51 parking lot Length: 1.6 miles
Ends: Road #52 Swain Ridge parking lot USGS Quad: Hail

Middle Ridge Trail #518

This scenic trail offers plenty of opportunities to view wildlife and see Kentucky at its best. After approximately .25 miles you will enter the wilderness at the registration box. The trail follows the creek northeasterly to the Three Forks of the Beaver trail #512A, where you may follow Beaver Creek or return to the Middle Ridge Trail.

Begins: Middle Ridge trailhead parking lot Length: 3.7 miles
Ends: Trail #518 USGS Quad: Hail

Beaver Creek Wilderness Trail #518

This trail provides you with breathtaking views of Beaver Creek. Upon leaving the parking lot, you will follow the road north all the way out the ridge to where a dirt pathway turns northeasterly into the wilderness and follows Beaver Creek, where the trail becomes less obvious. You will then connect with Trail #514 in a northwesterly direction up to the old road back to the Bowman Ridge parking lot.

Begins: Bowman Ridge parking lot Length: 3 miles
Ends: Bowman Ridge parking lot USGS Quad: Hail

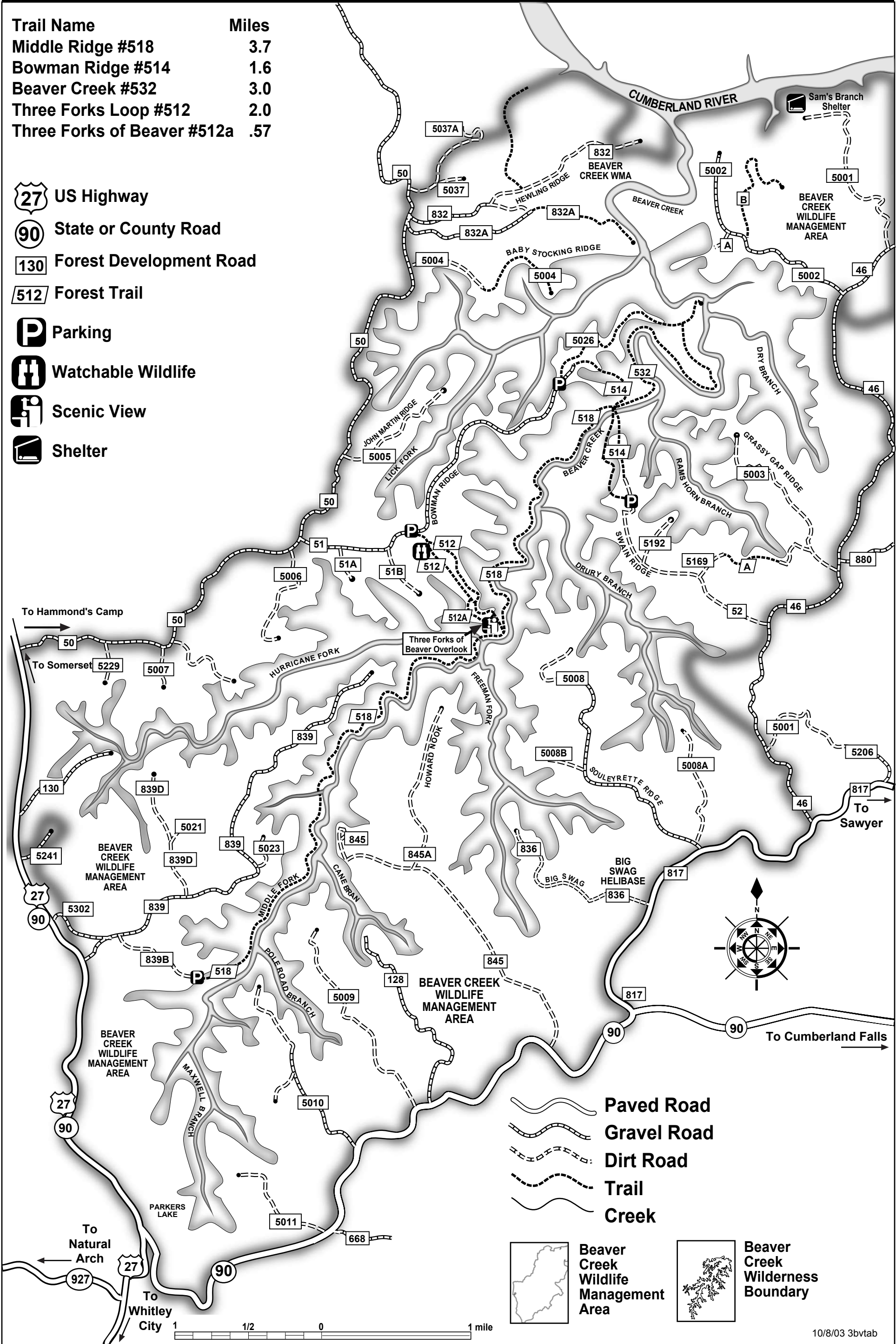


Beaver Creek Wilderness



Trail Name	Miles
Middle Ridge #518	3.7
Bowman Ridge #514	1.6
Beaver Creek #532	3.0
Three Forks Loop #512	2.0
Three Forks of Beaver #512a	.57

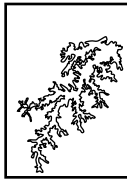
- US Highway
- State or County Road
- Forest Development Road
- Forest Trail
- Parking
- Watchable Wildlife
- Scenic View
- Shelter



- Paved Road
- Gravel Road
- Dirt Road
- Trail
- Creek



Beaver Creek Wildlife Management Area



Beaver Creek Wilderness Boundary